



October 8, 2017
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Beyond Borders

Lesson Five • Acts 17:16-34

Bridging the Gap with the Gospel

From Athens to Kansas City—Why Did God Put Us Here?

We are here to BRIDGE THE GAP with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed. Now while Paul waited for them at Athens... Acts 17:15-16

A Crash Course on Bridging the Gap with the Gospel

1. What Paul SAW: A City Full of Idols!

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens...he saw that the city was given over to idols. Acts 17:16

2. What Paul FELT: Deep Distress!

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Acts 17:16

3. What Paul DID: Engaged in Gospel Conversations!

Engaging in Gospel Conversations

Paul went to the SYNAGOGUE and MARKETPLACE to engage people in Gospel conversations.

Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. Acts 17:17

Bringing Strange Things to People's Ears

The reason the Gospel sounds so strange to most people is because we are living in a culture of spiritual CONFUSION.

Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. Acts 17:18-21

4. What Paul SAID: Proclaimed God's Salvation Story!

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: Acts 17:22-23

Proclaiming God's Story of Salvation

- Start with WHO God is: He is the creator of the universe and the sustainer of life. vs. 24-25
- Share WHAT God did: He created humanity from one man and guided history by His own plan. vs. 26
- Affirm WHY God did it: So that we would seek Him and discover that He is not far from us. vs. 27-28
- Tell what it MEANS for us: Jesus is the appointed Savior who is coming to judge the world, so repent before it's too late. vs. 29-31

Leave the Results to God

Some will MOCK, others will LISTEN with an interest to hear again, however, a few will BELIEVE in Jesus Christ.

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them. Acts 17:32-34